U.S. Department of Justice



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MASSACHUSETTS MAN PLEADS GUILTY TO IDENTITY THEFT CRIMES

CONCORD, NEW HAMPSHIRE – United States Attorney Tom Colantuono announced that ROBERTA CURRAN, of 599 S. Bridge Street, Holyoke, Massachusetts, pleaded guilty this morning to an eight-count indictment for identity theft crimes.

The indictment to which Curran, 41, a former resident of Derry, NH, pleaded guilty, charges that she used at least five different false names and false Social Security numbers to obtain 16 fraudulent New Hampshire Drivers' licenses and Non-Driver ID cards, and then used the false identification documents to facilitate the commission of bank fraud. Curran pled guilty to committing the offenses between October of 1998 and February of 2003.

Curran was originally known as Martin Curran, and committed most of the offenses charged under that name. Curran admitted, as part of the plea, to having used the name Roberta Curran fraudulently, and fraudulently obtaining a Social Security number in that name before legally adopting the name.

The apprehension and prosecution of Curran were the result of an investgation by the Identity Theft and Fraud Working Group organized in the U.S. Attorney's office which brings together both federal and state law enforcement agencies to combat identity theft and fraud. An intensive and coordinated investigation by agents of the Derry Police Department, the N.H. Department of Safety's Highway Patrol and Enforcement Bureau, the U.S. Postal Inspection Service, the U.S. Social Security Administration's Office of Inspector General, and the U.S. State Department's Diplomatic Security Service resulted in Curran's apprehension.

U.S. Attorney Colantuono commended all agencies involved stating, "The vigilance of the Derry Police Department, which first began investigation of the fraud, followed by the joint efforts and outstanding cooperation among numerous federal and state agencies stands as a fine example of law enforcement work and professionalism at its best. This case should serve as a warning to anyone contemplating identity fraud that they will be detected, apprehended, and prosecuted."

Curran faces a maximum prison term of thirty years and a maximum fine of \$1,000,000. Curran's sentencing hearing was set by U.S. District Court Judge Steven J. McAuliffe for the week of October 25, 2004. This case is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Alfred Rubega.